**Leisure Reading Behaviour of Young Children in Singapore**

**Highlights**

**What is already known about this topic?**

* Leisure reading stimulates thinking and reasoning skills.
* Young children like reading books on diverse topics.
* Parental support is necessary to promote leisure reading by their children.

**What this paper adds?**

* Reading was the second most preferred free-time activity of the surveyed children which negates a general perception that reading is declining among children.
* Parents, particularly mothers, were encouraging their children to read as well as reading to them.
* Adventure, mysteries, and humour were the most preferred genres.
* Bilingual children were not reading enough in their mother tongue languages.

**Implications for theory, policy or practice**

* Fathers need to play a more active role in stimulating reading interest in their children.
* Though children were quite independent in selecting their books, school and public librarians should come up with genre-specific recommended reading lists for children belonging to different age groups.
* As many bilingual children have limited proficiency in their mother tongue languages, publishers of children literature should produce special materials for this group of children. Such materials need to be short, easy to read, and help bilingual children connect to their native culture and roots.